



TOWN HALL PO Box 10 | 201 N. Railroad Street | Ridgway, Colorado 81432 | 970.626.5308 | www.town.ridgway.co.us

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
April 26, 2021

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your swift action in addressing the climate crisis during your first weeks in office and for your championing of the creation of a historic Civilian Climate Corps. We write to both express our gratitude for your work on this critical issue, and to encourage your administration to keep pursuing these bold ideas by continuing to draw from legislation such as the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act* (H.R. 1162/S. 487).

As county commissioners and mayors from across the state of Colorado, we understand the pressing need for increased resources to manage our public lands. From addressing deferred maintenance, to restoring forest health, our communities would benefit greatly from increased federal investment in our public lands. Throughout 2020, our state has been severely impacted by not only a devastating pandemic, but also a historic wildfire season. Three of the largest fires in Colorado history burned in the last year, costing the state over \$200 million in suppression costs alone.

We now have a unique opportunity to not only repair our public health and economy, but to also restore our environment. Given this opportunity, we were encouraged to see a \$10 billion investment for a Civilian Climate Corps included in the *American Jobs Plan*. We would like to express our sincere gratitude and share our enthusiastic support for establishing a Civilian Climate Corps to address the many natural resources management needs of our communities.

By way of example, the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act*, led by Rep. Joe Neguse and Sen. Ron Wyden, aims to address a variety of challenges facing our communities by investing in workforce training and jobs to support conservation programs and reforestation to restore our public lands; addressing deferred maintenance and expanding recreation access on our public lands; improving access to clean drinking water; and mitigating the risk of catastrophic wildfires. Our communities would greatly benefit from these investments and we support their inclusion in the creation of the Civilian Climate Corps, as proposed by your administration.



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Given the historic need for address wildfire resilience, mitigation and public lands restoration, legislation such as the *21st Century Conservation Corps Act* will not only take steps to address the climate crisis and improve environmental resiliency, but also put Americans back to work.

We look forward to joining you in putting a new generation of Americans to work conserving our public lands and waters.

Sincerely,

John I. Clark
Mayor
Ridgway, CO